Economic and Social Council

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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 8 June 2017

[*on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development (E/2017/26)*]

2017/12. Promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and strengthening the mainstreaming of disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[1] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[2]

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] which is inclusive of persons with disabilities and in which Member States pledged to leave no one behind, and acknowledging that Member States, while implementing the 2030 Agenda, should, inter alia, respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination of any kind,

Welcoming also the follow-up and review of progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the inclusion of persons with disabilities as stakeholders in its work, as set out in General Assembly resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013,

Reaffirming the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted on 13 December 2006,[4] as a landmark convention affirming the human rights and fundamental freedoms of persons with disabilities, and recognizing that it is both a human rights treaty and a development tool,

Recalling all operational frameworks in which persons with disabilities are recognized as both development agents and beneficiaries in all aspects of development,

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[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

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Welcoming General Assembly resolutions 70/145 of 17 December 2015, entitled "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto", 70/170 of 17 December 2015, entitled "Towards the full realization of an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities", and 71/165 of 19 December 2016, entitled "Inclusive development for persons with disabilities",

Convinced that addressing the profound civil, political, social, cultural and economic disadvantage and exclusion experienced by many persons with disabilities, promoting the use of universal design, as appropriate, as well as the progressive removal of barriers to the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of development and promoting the equal enjoyment by persons with disabilities of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

Noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability, including the rights of persons with disabilities, as an integral part of the global development agenda, major challenges remain,

Emphasizing the importance of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities in both rural and urban areas and promoting appropriate measures, in particular in cities and human settlements, that facilitate access for persons with disabilities to the physical environment of cities and other facilities and services open or provided to the public,

Recognizing that persons with disabilities are often disproportionately affected in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters, and that they are often at increased risk of discrimination, exploitation and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence,

Recognizing also that women and girls with disabilities are often among the most vulnerable and marginalized, and emphasizing the need to make further efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls with disabilities,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations to improve accessibility, in particular through a harmonized approach to accessible meeting services in both policy and practice at United Nations conference facilities, which contribute to an accessible United Nations inclusive of persons with disabilities by facilitating their participation in the meetings of the United Nations and their access to the documentation of the United Nations,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Mainstreaming disability in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"[5] and "Towards the full realization of an inclusive and accessible United Nations for persons with disabilities"[6] and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities which focuses on disability-inclusive policies;[7]

[5] E/CN.5/2017/4 and Corr.1.

[6] A/71/344 and Corr.1.

[7] A/71/314.

2. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to ensure that all development policies and programmes, including those regarding poverty eradication, education, health care, participation in public life, social protection, full and productive employment and decent work, sports and migration, and appropriate measures for financial inclusion as well as accessible community and housing development, take into account the inclusion of all persons with disabilities in society on an equal basis with others and that persons with disabilities have an opportunity to be actively involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of such policies and programmes;

3. *Encourages* Member States, relevant regional organizations and United Nations bodies and agencies to achieve the full application and implementation of the international normative framework on disability and development by encouraging the ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[4] and by considering the ratification of the Optional Protocol thereto,[8] as both human rights and development instruments;

4. *Emphasizes* the need for equal opportunities and for measures to ensure that all persons with disabilities are not subject to any forms of discrimination or stigmatization, in particular women, children, youth, indigenous peoples, older persons, migrants and refugees, who continue to be subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination, and to ensure that they are included in participation on an equal basis with others in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3] and other internationally agreed development goals;

5. *Decides* to continue to give due consideration to the issue of mainstreaming the rights, participation, perspectives, needs and well-being of persons with disabilities in development, including within the framework of United Nations operational activities, in accordance with relevant mandates, in order to enhance awareness and cooperation at all levels, including the participation, where appropriate, of United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks and institutions and other relevant stakeholders, while ensuring coordination and avoiding any possible overlapping;

6. *Recognizes* that the Commission for Social Development, within its mandate as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, promotes and supports an integrated approach to social development issues within the United Nations system, and in this regard encourages the Commission, within its existing mandate, to contribute to the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inter alia, for persons with disabilities, in line with General Assembly resolutions 67/290, entitled "Format and organizational aspects of the high-level political forum on sustainable development", 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", and 70/299 of 29 July 2016, entitled "Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global level", and by giving due regard to the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the interlinkages between them;

7. *Reaffirms* that social integration and economic policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health-care services, eliminate discrimination, increase the participation and

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.

integration of social groups, particularly persons with disabilities, and address the potential challenges posed to social development by globalization and market-driven reforms in order for all people in all countries to benefit from globalization;

8. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations agencies and bodies, development agencies and international organizations, and encourages the private sector, to regard accessibility as both a means and a goal of inclusive and sustainable development, and therefore an essential investment that benefits all members of society, and, hence, to ensure that accessibility is an integral part of programmes and projects relating to the built environment, transportation and information and communications technologies;

9. *Encourages* the mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream disability in development at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of national efforts, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of national mechanisms, in particular in developing countries;

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to improve the collection and analysis and to significantly increase the availability of internationally comparable, high-quality, timely and reliable data on persons with disabilities, following existing guidelines on disability statistics and their updates,[9] disaggregated by, inter alia, disability, sex and age, for development policy planning, implementation and evaluation; to share, where appropriate, relevant data and statistics with relevant agencies and bodies within the United Nations system through appropriate mechanisms; and to address the gap in data collection and analysis;

11. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability and the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities multi-donor trust fund;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution through existing reporting mechanisms during the fifty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development.

33rd plenary meeting
8 June 2017

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[9] Such as *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.15.XVII.10) and its updates.